

Both sides of a picture should be viewed!



Adam Zahir

Commissioner of Police

Even a picture can be seen in a different way due to the angle of view. Similarly memories too, can be felt in a different manner due to the way of thinking. My intention is to use this opportunity to express some such views about the martyrs of 03rd November, 1988.

Why would a group of people agree to go with weapons in front of the defence force of another country, in order to seize their freedom? A universal answer to this question is easy. A group would agree to take part in such a dangerous, brutal act only because they themselves can gain something from it. Such an act would not be committed with the aim of just conquering a country.

When a group agrees to commit such a terrorist attack, their only objective would be to succeed, no matter what happens. Hence, the blood of the citizens of the attacked country would have no value for them. The sovereignty of the country would be worthless. They would have no respect for the identity of the country. They would have no honour for the values of the country. In order to attain their objectives, they would have no qualms to take the lives of the leaders and the citizens of the country.

The reality that we should strive to understand is, what would happen to us if outside enemies with such intentions succeed in their endeavour. How the future will be determined, for us as well as the generations who would inherit the country. We can ponder this even without opening the dark historical archives relating to the Portuguese and the Dutch invasion of the Maldives.

It is evident from the literature that the attack on 03rd November was led by a group of Maldivians. The point I would like to focus is not actually that. I wish to view the scenario

from a different angle. If we look into the Maldivian history, it is true that there were Maldivians behind every such invasion of the country. Yet, what happens once the invasion is successful? If the terrorist attack on 03rd November had been successful who would the leaders be? That is my question. The individuals who battled for the defence of the nation and the martyred heroes are on one side of the photo. The important other side of the photo of which we should be aware is also visible in this scenario. What is it? As mentioned previously in this article, would the outsiders who have no respect or value for our blood, religion or the sovereignty of the nation con-

parted to the enemies. There are a lot of messages and morals we received; the blood of 19 Maldivians was spilled onto our land. We all understand the value of the pure blood, and the status of the martyrs, don't we?

What happened to the aims of the enemies in front of the Maldivian soldiers' firm characters? Their intentions were brought to a halt; their hopes were dashed. With the brave confrontation of Martyr Hussain Adam only, their strategy had to be altered. The brave Maldivian soldiers obeyed orders, and brought their religion and their nation's rights forward. The level of faith and patriotism of the Maldivians threw the enemy off balance. It sent them run-

ning around in circles on the roads in utter shame and embarrassment of defeat. They became helpless. The consequence was the Maldivian nation and land were safe. For how long? The whole nation and its property became safe and secure for generations and generations.

The sacrifice of the nation's martyrs encompasses the freedom, the language and history of the Maldivians, as well as the name, reputation and dignity of the people and the society. We have been

able to pass on to our children the independent nation that was entrusted and put in our hands by our forefathers to be handed over to them. This is the reason why we respect, honour and remember the names of the martyrs. Not only the fact that they lost their lives in the defence of the nation; we also have to remember how they showed their bravery and fine example in making the enemies dispirited and feeble. Think about what will happen to our beloved Maldivian nation even if one individual does not act his part in such a situation, where responsibility and dependability is required! Both sides of a picture should be viewed. Every day. Every minute!



sider the two or three Maldivians who initiated the attack as their leaders, and stand by them quietly? Do the Maldivians who were involved in the terrorist attack understand how widespread the terrorist group is, how far their roots go, and what kind of people they were? Were they aware of that?

At this point I would like to say something with reference to the martyrs of 03rd November, including martyrs who lost their lives due to various reasons. Civilians, indirectly; others, in the line of fire at the battlefield. Whichever way it happens, there is a meaning to martyrdom; there are lessons im-